

The Redeemer

Volume 2, No. 45

Nov. 21, 1943, Sunday

SERMONETTE

St. Paul said in his Epistle to the Romans, "O wretched man that I am!...I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 7:24,25) He found himself in a state of helplessness from his consciousness of sin. We call it destruction of character when anyone finds himself in a whirlpool of mental bewilderment for doing what he should not do.

In my pastoral experience, I know of many a habitual gambler who lost all his earnings in a few hours and walked back to his shabby bed in a labor camp with his head sunk deep in his coat collar and with heavy steps on a dark, dreary road. A boy struggling to hide cigarette stains on his fingers from the sympathetic eyes of his minister who unexpectedly visited him said, "What Christ means to me? I am all right. I go my way." He went his way like a captive to his jail. The highest appreciation to the greatest gift was Paul's "Thanks" to his personal Saviour Jesus Christ.

The traditional Thanksgiving Day means bountiful crops and a peaceful home life under the care of a propitiative government as we all dream of. However, we have neither a rich harvest nor a peaceful homelace with the melody of the cackle of chicken under the blooming sweetpeas with their perfume. But, we cannot go without a heart of Thanksgiving. Our march is always miserable without victory. We need collaborated conviction to take us through this temporal world.

A little girl was sent from a famine-stricken district in North Japan to live with a wealthy Christian family. The lady who accepted this unfortunate little girl said to the man who brought her, "Yes, we must make connections with the parents of this girl for the happiness of the future of each one of us, and we must try to take care of them as well as this poor girl."

Later, this child was introduced to the head of the family who returned from his office and also to the son who was home from the university. She was so bashful that she hid her face and stood in the corner with her dirty kimono and uncombed hair. She met everything in her new home with curiosity. She repeatedly opened and shut the umbrella as it opened so wide each time. The first night she slept on a mattress, saying, "I used to sleep on a straw mat at home."

Two years later, Tomi-chan, now a regular school girl, spoke the Tokyo dialect freely. One morning when it was time to go to school, she did not come out from her room to say, "itte mairi masu". "Tomi-chan", the lady called with a loud voice. But Tomi-chan did not appear. As she approached Tomi-chan's room, she heard a soft and gentle voice, praying, "Oh, Father in Heaven, please make Nii-chan well, for I was taught that you will make everyone well only if we pray. Nii-chan has not gone to school for many days because of a bad cold, and Oba-chan and Oji-san are very worried. Please make Nii-chan well." Her voice was gradually becoming smothered with sniffles as she fervently repeated her petition.

Tears burst from the lady's eyes as she united in the "Amen". She thought, "How thankful I am that this little girl who two years ago was so shy has learned of our Saviour Jesus Christ and has been such a blessing to us."

Thanks be unto God for He will make us strong sons of Abraham!

— Rev. K. Imai —

A THANKSGIVING PSALM

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place,
In all ages past;
A shelter safe through time and space,
A shield from every blast.
And when life's storms and problems sweep
Across earth's transient sky;
Thou art a refuge then, to keep
When danger draweth nigh.

We thank Thee for that blessed hope
That warms our hearts today;
That none may now in darkness grope
With Thee to light the way.
Let every heart be lifted up
This glad Thanksgiving tide;
For blessings overflow each cup
Where Ye with men abide.

The cattle on a thousand hills
Are pastured by Thy hand;
The grain that every storehouse fills
Ye bless, in every land;
By Thee the multitudes are fed
And prospered day by day;
From Thee alone their daily bread
Is sent along the way.

The hills are clothed, the plow is bless'd
Though men forget to praise;
Abundant harvest fields have dress'd
The earth through autumn days.
From everlasting Thou art God,
Through time and space the same;
Let men Thy goodness tell abroad,
Thy mercies, too, proclaim.

-- Sel.

TESTIMONY

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

As I reminisce my past life, before I was born again, even to my childhood days, I feel ashamed. I thank our Lord that He gave us two births and one death instead of one birth and two deaths. If it were not so, I would still be leading the former life, which I know hurt Jesus' heart very much. During those days, even as I attended Sunday School and memorized scripture verses, it meant very little to me. In fact, I doubted the existence of God, which is the worst sin a Christian can commit. Whenever I think upon that past life, I repent in shame and ask for forgiveness, for which He floods my heart with His love, that I know I am forgiven, and He remembers them no more.

The life I live now since accepting our Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, is entirely different. I know that God, our Heavenly Father exists. Because of His love for an unworthy person as I, He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, that whoso ever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Just think, He gave to me His only Son who bore my sins upon that rugged cross, shed his precious blood and set me free. By faith I repented and not knowing how to repay Him, I rededicated my whole life to Him. Since then, I possess the joy and peace that nothing else can give. My prayer is not myself but Christ.

Raiko Konatsu.

CONFERENCE

A mass business meeting was held last Sunday evening to elect delegates to the joint YMCA and YWCA conference to be held in Tempe, Arizona on Dec. 4, 5, and 6.

Those elected to represent Poston 3 are Tykie Kitahata, Mrs. T. Trokey, Thomas Tajiri, and George Takaoka.

TYKIE & RAY



The engagement of Miss Tayeko Kitahata to Sgt. Ray Umade was announced Monday evening Nov. 15, at the Kitahata residence.

Tykie is the advisor of both the Junior C. E. and Kappa Theta Lambda girls' club. Sgt. Umade is now stationed at Ft. Meade, Md. No definite plans for the future have been made by the betrothed couple.

BEST WISHES

MR. & MRS. EDWARD NAGATA, who relocated to Caldwell, Idaho, are parents of a boy born Nov. 11.

acknowledgments

The Third Christian Church of Poston wishes to acknowledge the special offerings which were received from the following: Lottie Abe, Minneapolis, Minn.; Sue Hirai, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Pierson, Torrance, Calif.; Mrs. M. B. Flanders, Alhambra, Calif.; and Misses Mills & Thomas, Lomita, Calif.

Monthly pledges have been received from Kikuno and Marian Tanabe, Chicago, Ill.; and Michiko Ishimoto, Toledo, Ohio.

The Publication Staff of THE REDEEMER takes this opportunity to thank Mr. John Baun of Reedley, Calif., for his special donation.

departures

We were sad but yet happy to see Sumi Kitahata off to establish herself in the normal stream of life in Cleveland, Ohio. She has been a source of many blessings to us through her artistic and musical services in the Church.

Louis Sakaguchi and George Shiba who had just returned from seasonal work, left us again for employment in Detroit, Michigan.

We pray that they may be a shining light to those around them in their new homes.

C. E. NOTES

Y. P.

A Bible Quiz Travel game was played by the members of the Y.P. last Sunday. Many unusual questions of Biblical nature kept the group in gales of laughter as the participants vainly taxed their brains for the correct answers.

SENIORS

An evening of beautiful music in the form of recorded hymns was enjoyed by the Seniors at their meeting last Sunday, which was dedicated to Sumi Kitahata.

Special guests were PFC George Shiozawa and Pvt. Giichi Yamagata.

INTERMEDIATES

The Intermediates also held a hymn night with recorded music. A reading was given by Aiko Tashiro on Christ in Gethsemane.

A very special quartet recording which features Lloyd Wake, John Miyabe, Sod Nakashima, and Victor Fujiu harmonizing "Jesus Paid It All" and "Have A Little Talk With Jesus", was greatly appreciated by the young audience.

JUNIORS

"Quaker Night" was very successful with the Juniors last Sunday. The group set quietly, as one by one they felt led by the Spirit to read poems, give testimonies, or perform musical numbers.

The Juniors are truly growing in knowledge and in grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.